

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08

OMB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 /101 W

-----151930Z 095164 /44

R 151522Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8533

INFO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0748

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, CT, CE

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER PATASSE

REF: BANGUI 0702

1. I CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER PATASSE APRIL 15 FOR A GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON. I REPORTED TO HIM ON MY CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON AND AS IN MY CONVERSATION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER (REFTEL) STRESSED THE ADMINISTRATION'S CO CEGN FOR AFRICA AND FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. I SAID I HAD TAKEN CAREFUL NOTE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S APRIL 14 SPEECH OF GOVERNMENT POLICY (REPORTED SEPTTEL). THERE WERE MANY ELEMENTS TO WHICH WE COULD RELATE POSITIACY: THE STRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE GOVERNMENTS' EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR A FOREIGN POLICY OF OPENNESS AND COOPERATION; THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, NON-ALIGNMENT AND RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVERIGNTY, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. A NUMBER OF THE HIGH PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT SECTORS WHICH HE HAD ENUMERATED WERE ALSO OF INTEREST TO US: THE CREATION OF RURAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE, THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIVESTOCK AND FISH CULTURE, THE USE OF MASS MEDIA IN EDUCATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES. THESE WERE ALL
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AREAS WHERE WE WERE EITHER MAKING INPUTS OR HAD PROGRAMS UNDER CONSIDERATION. AS FAR AS I COULD JUDGE THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCED POLICY WAS ONE WITH WHICH WE COULD WORK IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND HARMONY.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER RESPONDED WARMLY BY NOTING THAT HE WAS ENTIRELY SATISFIED WITH THE STATE OF OUR RELATIONS

AND LOOKED FORWARD TO THE ELABORATION OF FUTURE AID PROJECTS. HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED WHAT WAS THE STATUS OF HIS EARLIER REQUEST FOR A C-130 (BANGUI 2291-1976). I SAID THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY THAT THE USG WOULD GIVE THE CAE A C-130. EVENTUALLY IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE GOCAE TO PURCHASE AN AIRCRAFT WITH EXIM FINANCING, BUT THAT, OF COURSE, WOULD HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED WITH EXIM DIRECTLY AND WOULD DEPEND ON PERFORMANCE UNDER THE NEW GT&E REPAYMENT SCHEDULE.

3. PATASSE SAID HE ALSO WISHED TO ASK THE USG TO PROVIDE 15 CATERPILLER BULLDOZERS AND 10 SHOVEL LOADERS FOR THE COUNTRY'S ROAD MAINTENANCE PROJECTS. I RESPONDED THAT I UNDERSTOOD THAT MANY OTHER DONNORS WERE INVOLVED INCLUDING THE FED, FAC AND WEST GERMANY AND THAT THERE WOULD BE A MEETING OF DONNORS IN BANGUI BEGINNING APRIL 20. WE WOULD NOT WANT TO PLUNGE INTO A SECTOR WHICH OTHERS WERE ALREADY HANDLING. I ASKED HIM TO KEEP ME INFORMED OF THE RESULTS OF NEXT WEEK'S MEETING. IN THE MEANTIME, I UNDERTOOK TO INFORM WASHINGTON OF HIS REQUEST. (COMMENT: THE PRIME MINISTER'S REQUEST DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN COORDINATED IN THE GOVERNMENT AND PROBABLY DOES NOT REQUIRE AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE FROM US. WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH EIGEN AS SUGGESTED STATE 083643) (NOTAL) AND WILL DISCUSS THE UTILITY OF ANY USG INPUTS WITH HIM. FOR THE MOMENT WE ARE HIGHLY SKEPTICAL).

4. MY CALL ON PATASSE WAS LEAD NEWS ITEM ON NATIONAL RADIO LATER THE SAME DAY. MY REMARKS ON OUR DESIRE TO DEVELOP OUR RELATIONS IN THE SPIRIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH AND
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THE CAE'S POLICY OF OPENNESS WERE QUOTED AS WAS MY STATEMENT THAT WE WERE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN CERTAIN PRIORITY AREAS. THE GOCAE'S HANDLING OF THE CALL IS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE CURRENT EFFORT BEING MADE BY THE GOCAE TO PROJECT A POSITIVE IMAGE OF THE STATE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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